

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Leanne Ketterhagen
608-848-5237
lketterhagen@wiid.org

10,000 Premises Registered in Wisconsin

VERONA, WI (May 5, 2005) The Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC), along with its partners, has registered 10,000 livestock premises in Wisconsin. While the current effort is voluntary, the Wisconsin Premises Registration Act requires anyone who keeps, houses, or co-mingles livestock to register premises by November 1, 2005.

"I applaud not only our producers for their willingness to take this step to help protect our industry, but also WLIC for the tremendous effort to get the word out," says Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, "Wisconsin set the example for the nation when it came to premises registration and now we're setting the pace, too."

WLIC has partnered with various entities to assist in registration and outreach, including 36 Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices for on-site computer registration (the remainder have paper forms available), the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Producer groups have also supported the volunteer effort. WLIC member organizations have assisted by publishing newsletter articles, posting signage, hosting trade shows and speaking events, and placing web links on their sites. "I am so very proud of what producers have accomplished. We registered our premises because we believe it is critical to achieve 48-hour trace back capability in the event of an animal disease outbreak. This capability protects the Wisconsin herd as well as our livestock industry," says Deb Reinhart, WLIC chair.

Of the 10,000 premises registered, cattle are the most prominent species on premises, followed significantly by equine. Swine, poultry and sheep follow in order.

- MORE -

“Wisconsin’s 10,000 premises achievement is a significant milestone. At World Dairy Expo 2003, I was privileged to be the first person to register my premises. It was simple then; it’s simple now,” notes Gary Tauchen, dairy producer and WLIC’s first chair. “Tom Lyon and Rod Nilsestuen, former CEO’s of Cooperative Resources International and Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, respectively, and now top DATCP officials, were instrumental in the formation of WLIC,” Tauchen says, “They showed outstanding vision and foresight in helping organize and initiate this important initiative. The Wisconsin livestock industry owes these men a debt of gratitude.”

John Wiemers, National Animal Identification System Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinarian Services, reports 69,635 premises registered nationally through 47 states and five tribes. Wisconsin has registered 14% of the nationally allocated premises. “We are very pleased with the progress the state of Wisconsin made in implementing a premises registration system through the efforts of WLIC,” Wiemers says, “It has been a pleasure to work with such a remarkable organization dedicated to the spirit of cooperation in meeting the needs of both the public and private sectors of the livestock industry.”

The WLIC has determined the method for registering has been approximately 40% from on-line registration, 40% from paper forms, and 20% from WLIC agents. An agent is an organization which has signed a memorandum of understanding, and with permission, can register on behalf of a producer.

“Livestock,” as defined by the Wisconsin Premises Registration Act rules, includes aquaculture, bovine (bison, cattle), camelids (llamas, alpacas), cervidea (deer, elk, moose, caribou, reindeer and the subfamily musk deer), equine (horses, donkeys, mules), goats, pheasants, poultry (chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, guinea fowl), quail, ratites (rheas, ostriches, emu, cassowary, kiwi), sheep, and swine.

There are four ways to register premises at no cost: computer registration at www.wiid.org is available by clicking on the link for WLIC Premises Registration; a premises registration form can be mailed directly in response to a producer who calls WLIC at 1-888-808-1910; a producer may register premises by requesting a WLIC agent to register premises on his/her behalf -- listed on the web site at www.wiid.org; or visit an FSA office for on-line registration or to pick up a paper form.